Notice of Allowability 09/996.268 BALLANTINE ET AL.	•	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability		''	
Angela J. Martin 1745 - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address- All claims being allowable. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith for proviously maleid, a Notice of Nowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be male in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initial of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308. 1. ☑ This communication is responsive to 10/2/06. 2. ☑ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1.7:10 and 12-38. 3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) ☐ All ☐ D) ☐ Some* o) ☐ None of the: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bursau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received:	Notice of Allowshility		
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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The Applicant claims a method of operating a fuel cell system comprising a fuel cell stack and a plurality of fuel cells associated with the fuel cell stack, the method comprising: monitoring voltages of a set of fuel cells, and restricting coolant flow through the fuel cell stack when one or more of the monitored voltages decreases from a predetermined voltage range, wherein the fuel cell system further comprises a first end plate associated with a first end of the fuel cell stack, and the method further comprises heating the first end plate.

Applicant claims a method of operating a fuel cell system comprising monitoring voltages of a set of fuel cells and restricting coolant flow through the stack when one or more of the monitored voltages decreases from a predetermined voltage range.

In the prior art of record, Roberts et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,329,089, teach methods of operating a fuel cell stack in which coolant flow during start-up is regulated based on a measured temperature parameter. Parise, U.S. Pat. No. 6,057,050, teach methods of cooling batteries using thermoelectric cooling devices, with regulation based on a monitored temperature.

However, the prior art of record, taken either alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious, restricting coolant flow through the fuel cell stack when one or more of the monitored voltages decreases from a predetermined voltage range.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

Art Unit: 1745

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela J. Martin whose telephone number is 571-272-1288. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AJM

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER